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Sen. McManus testifies on hazing bill before Senate Judiciary Committee

Lansing – State Sen. Michelle McManus, R-Lake Leelanau, along with Todd Price, a hall director at Ferris State University, testified today before the Senate Judiciary Committee in support of an anti-hazing bill sponsored by McManus.

Senate Bill 783 along with SB 784, sponsored by Sen. Nancy Cassis, R-Novi, to prescribe criminal penalties for hazing at an educational institution.

The legislation was prompted by correspondence between Price and McManus. As a constituent and member of a university, Price saw the importance of bringing hazing and its effects to the attention of legislators as Michigan is one of only seven states without anti-hazing legislation. Price testified today voicing his support for the bill.

“This legislation is taking a tremendous step toward ensuring the safety of our students,” Price said. “Universities are a place of learning and growth for young adults and they should not carry the scars of a hazing incident when they leave to put their education to use.”

The legislation defines an educational institution as public or private middle school, junior high school, high school, vocational school, college or university located in Michigan.

The lack of anti-hazing legislation in Michigan makes it difficult for prosecutors to try offenders. Prosecutors have the burden of proving that the victim did not consent to the hazing, a provision that this legislation would remove.

“This legislation will make it easier to hold accountable those who cause injury or death to their fellow students,” McManus stated.

A vote on the bills is expected in the full Senate next week.

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Photo advisory: Photos of Price and McManus testifying are available online at
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire.